UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/676,364	09/29/2000	John D. Roper	MSFT-0207/150500.1	2193

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Steven B. Samuels, Esq.
WOODCOCK WASHBURN KURTZ MACKIEWICZ & NORRIS LLP
46th Floor
One Liberty Place
Philadelphia, PA   19103

EXAMINER
CAMPBELL, JOSHUA D

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

EXAMINER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

In regards to application number 09/676,364:

The Notice of allowance mailed on 6/28/2005 contained typographical errors on pages 3 and 4 in the amendments to claim 28. The attached document is a corrected version of the Examiner's Amendment.

Joshua D. Campbell
November 19, 2005
Art Unit 2178
(571)272-4133

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Jerome Schaefer on 06/16/2005.

24. (Currently Amended by the Examiner) A method of generating a Web page

having a number of display items from different sources located in at least some of N

available display slots of the Web page, the Web page having been generated in

accordance with the following method:

(a) defining for each source of display items, a candidate set of items to be

displayed;

(b) selecting display items from a pool of all candidate sets of display items in a

manner that equalizes a probability that display items of a first candidate set from a first

source are selected in relation to display items of a second candidate set from a second

source, wherein the display items of the first candidate set and the second candidate

set are unequal in number;

(c) inserting up to N of the selected items in the available display slots on the

Web page;

(d) defining a plurality of different levels of source participation, each source being associated with one level and each level having one or more sources associated with it;

(e) performing (a) through (c) separately for the sources at each level of participation, thereby selecting a number of display items at each level; and

(f) selecting a predefined number of display items from said selected items at each level and assigning the predefined number of display items of each level to respective display slots on the Web page in a manner that gives preference to one level of source participation relative to another.

25. (Currently Amended by the Examiner) The method Web-page recited in claim 24, wherein if there are not enough display items at a given level to select said predefined number of display items, the method of generating the Web page further comprises assigning display slots that otherwise would have been assigned to the display items of that level instead to the display items at the highest other level of participation having available items to fill those slots.

26. (Currently Amended by the Examiner) The method Web-page recited in claim 24, wherein if there are not enough display items among all of the levels of source participation to fill the available display slots on the Web page, the method of generating the Web page further comprises filling the unfilled display slots with display items selected from sources outside of said predefined levels of source participation.

28. (Currently Amended by the Examiner) The method Web-page recited in claim 24, wherein (b) further comprises (b1) randomly selecting one of the candidate sets,

(b2) selecting one item from the selected candidate set, (b3) reducing a count of the display items of the selected candidate set by one and removing that candidate set from further consideration when the count reaches zero; and (b4) repeating (b1) through (b3) until a desired number of display items have been selected.

29. (Currently Amended by the Examiner) The method ~~Web page~~ recited in claim 28, wherein (b2) comprises randomly selecting one item from the selected candidate set.

30. (Currently Amended by the Examiner) The method ~~Web page~~ recited in claim 28, wherein (b2) comprises selecting one item from the selected candidate set in accordance with a weighting of items applied to the selected candidate set.

31. (Currently Amended by the Examiner) The method ~~Web page~~ recited in claim 30, wherein (a) comprises defining, for each source of display items, a candidate set of items to be displayed, each candidate set of items having at least a first subset and a second subset, each subset having a count associated therewith of the number of display items in that subset, and wherein (b2) and (b3) are performed first on the first subset of display items until the count for that subset reaches zero, and then on the second subset, the candidate set being removed from further consideration only after the counts of both subsets reach zero.

32. (Currently Amended by the Examiner) The method ~~Web page~~ recited in claim 31, wherein each candidate set comprises two or more subsets, and wherein (b2) and (b3) are performed, in turn, on each successive subset until the counts of all of the

subsets reach zero.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D Campbell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4133. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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JDC
June 16, 2005

WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
11/22/2005